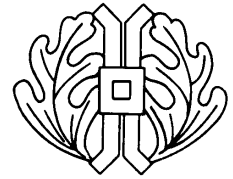


PREVENTIVE LAW SERIES

ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES



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WHAT ARE ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES?

Advanced Medical Directives are legal documents which permit you to make future health care decisions and to appoint another person to make health care decisions for you should you be unable to do so. Two types of Advanced Medical Directives are Living Wills and Health Care Powers of Attorney.

WHAT IS A LIVING WILL?

A Living Will is a legal document that declares your desire for a natural death. The document expresses your desires concerning the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in the event of an incurable or irreversible condition that will cause death within a relatively short time. The document can also allow you to set forth your wishes concerning organ donation. The document is only effective when you are no longer able to make decisions or express your wishes regarding your own medical treatment. A Living Will can never override your conscious decision to seek additional medical treatment and you may revoke your Living Will at any time. A Living Will will not be given effect during pregnancy. California Health and Safety Code section 7189.5.

WHAT IS A HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY?

A Health Care Power of Attorney is a legal document wherein you appoint another person as your agent to make health care decisions for you should you be unable to do so for yourself. The Health Care Power of Attorney can also include special instructions which set forth your special wishes regarding the types of medical treatments that you wish to receive. Additionally, a Health Care Power of Attorney can allow you to set forth your wishes concerning organ donation. A Health Care Power of Attorney will prevail over a Living Will unless expressly stated otherwise in the Health Care Power of Attorney. California Health and Safety Code section 7193.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENTS:

For an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney, please contact the Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 610, Naval Air Station North Island, by telephone at (619) 545-6278.

RESOURCES:

San Diego County Bar Association Attorney Referral Service (619) 231-8585
California Probate Code section 4771 (Health Care Powers of Attorney)
California Health and Safety Code section 7185 et seq. (Living Wills)